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15 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Drop Test of Primed TNT Sticks

1. On 13 June 1961 drop tests of primed TNT sticks were made at Camp AP Hill, Virginia.

2. Forty 1¼" x 8" dynamite type packaged granular TNT sticks were primed with J-1 blasting caps and 6" of time fuse.

3. Twenty of the sticks were reinforced completely with Scotch Branch Making Tape. The remaining twenty were reinforced with this tape only at each end. All sticks were primed with J-1 blasting caps centered in one end. Six inches of fuse was crimped to each cap. The fuse was tied very securely to the stick with strong cord. Approximately 20 sticks had a packet of paper stem fusee matches taped to the stick with cellophane scotch tape.

4. The sticks were placed in a L-20 airplane and dropped in untied bundles of 10 at a time from an altitude of 600 feet and at a speed of 120 mph. Two sticks hit the tail and antenna stub on the airplane doing no damage to the airplane but demolishing the sticks. This was observed from the ground but not from the airplane so the drop continued ten sticks at a time until all 40 were dropped. The pilot missed the DZ on all four passes so some sticks landed on the dirt road, some in small pine trees and some in partially covered grassy field. In all 38 sticks were recovered with four broken ones. These were ones which had reinforcing tape at the ends only. No sticks detonated. All sticks recovered were later detonated high order.

5. As a result of this test it is concluded that TNT sticks primed with J-1 blasting caps and fuse can be successfully free-fall dropped on normal terrain from an altitude of 600 feet with approximately 10% loss due to breakage. Danger from detonation by dropping is extremely remote.

6. During this same series of drops three sealed cans of RDX Special Blasting Caps were also free-fall dropped without damage or detonation.

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